

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 102300Z SEP 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 215624

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT:AID REQUEST FOR INDIA -- PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED SEPTEMBER 10 ON CONTINGENCY
BASIS FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN RESPONDING TO
QUESTIONS ABOUT AID REQUEST FOR INDIA. GUIDANCE NOT
USED AS NO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED.

Q: IS THE USG MAINTAINING THE AID REQUEST FOR INDIA?
HOW MUCH?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

IN FY 76 INCLUDES DOLS. 76 MILLION FOR INDIA (DOLS. 75
MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT LENDING AND DOLS. 1 MILLION FOR
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE). THIS WAS PART OF THE PACKAGE
WHICH WENT TO THE HILL EARLY IN 1975 AND WAS REPORTED
OUT IN THE FY 76 AUTHORIZATION BILL BY THE HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO THE FULL HOUSE.
IN ADDITION WE ARE CONSIDERING A POSSIBLE PL 480 PROGRAM.
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Q: WHAT AMOUNTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

A: IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON THE POSSIBLE
AMOUNTS INVOLVED.

Q: HOW MUCH DID YOU GIVE LAST YEAR IN PL 480?

A: 800,000 TONS OF WHEAT, WORTH APPROXIMATELY DOLS. 128 MILLION.

Q: IS THIS YEAR'S PACKAGE THE FIRST ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM FOR INDIA IN SOME YEARS?

A: IF APPROVED BY CONGRESS AND AGREEMENT REACHED WITH INDIA, IT WILL BE THE FIRST SUCH DEVELOPMENTAL AID PROGRAM SINCE 1971.

Q: WHY ARE YOU CONTINUING TO SUPPORT AID TO INDIA WHEN MRS. GANDHI HAS DONE AWAY WITH DEMOCRACY IN INDIA?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT OUR LONG RUN INTEREST IN SOUTH ASIA AND OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS FOR INDIA SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE AID REQUEST. OUR INTERESTS IN SOUTH ASIA ARE THE MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY, THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND THE AVOIDANCE OF OUTSIDE POWER INTERFERENCE. WE OF COURSE HAVE A LONG-STANDING HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN THE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA, ONE OF THE COUNTRIES HARDEST HIT BY THE INCREASES IN WORLD PRICES OF COMMODITIES, SUCH AS FOOD, FUEL AND FERTILIZER. WE SEE A MODEST AID PROGRAM, MUCH SMALLER THAN THOSE OF THE 1960'S, AS MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROCESS.

WITH REGARD TO INDIAN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS, WE HAVE PUBLICLY REGRETTED CENSORSHIP AND PROTESTED THE EXPULSION OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS. WE HAVE NOT FELT THAT ANY OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE OR OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.

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Q: WILL THE SECRETARY BE MEETING INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN? WHEN? WHY?

A: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 6-7 FOR A MEETING OF THE INDO-U.S. JOINT COMMISSION. THIS MEETING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED THE LAST OF MARCH BUT WAS POSTPONED BY THE INDIANS. IT HAS NOW BEEN RESCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE WHILE MR. CHAVAN IS IN THIS COUNTRY TO ATTEND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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